

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 /075 W
-----075400 241426Z /53

R 241100Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6813
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0679

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP PGOV PINS PINT ECON ETRD MP UK UR SE SO FR
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - JUNE 24 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 658

1. ON HIS RETURN FROM THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM EXPRESSED HIS DISTASTE FOR THE COUP D'ETAT IN THE NEIGHBORING SEYCHELLES BY WHICH "DEMOCRACY HAD BEEN CRUSHED BY GUNMEN." THE QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING THE NEW RENE REGIME WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING, HE SAID.

2. RAM ALSO PRAISED BREZHNEV ON BEING ELECTED TO HIS NEW POSITION AS CHIEF OF STATE OF THE USSR AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT CARTER WILL WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND TO ACHIEVE THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN SO THAT
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LITTORAL STATES CAN LIVE IN PEACE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER LATER CONFIDED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS REMARKS ABOUT BREZHNEV WERE INTENDED "TO BUTTER UP THE SOVIETS," BECAUSE, HE SAID, "I KNOW THEY ARE AFTER US TOO."

4. PORT LOUIS NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN PLAY TO THE SECOND VISIT

BY MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) LEADER BERENGER TO THE SEYCHELLES AND HIS REMARKS THAT HE EXPECTS ELECTIONS WITH A MMM VICTORY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR IN MAURITIUS. PHOTOS SHOWING BERENGER POSING WITH RENE AND SOME OF THE LATTER'S WELL-ARMED MILITIA HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED WITH THE ARTICLES, AROUSING FEARS LOCALLY THAT BERENGER'S EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE MMM WOULD COME TO POWER SOON "WITH OR WITHOUT ELECTIONS" MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AN IDLE THREAT.

5. AN ENVOY OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE MET WITH RAMGOOLAM ON JUNE 22 TO DISCUSS THE OAU, DJIBOUTI, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE RED SEA. HE ALSO WAS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS TRADE MATTERS WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE.

6. IN THE ECONOMIC AREA: (A) PRICE CONTROLS WERE IMPOSED ON RODRIGUES TO PROTECT CONSUMERS; (B) A PUBLIC SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY MEMBERS OF A MAURITIAN GROUP WHICH HAD VISITED HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE RECENTLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PERMITTING THE PRINCIPLES OF UNRESTRAINED FREE ENTERPRISE TO OPERATE HERE; (C) FRENCH TEXTILE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS SET OFF FEARS THAT MAURITIAN EXPORTS WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED; AND (D) TOURISM IS ON THE UPSWING, WITH TOURIST ARRIVAL DURING THE FIRST QUARTER 12.6 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - JUNE 24 (SUMMARY)
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